

forward error correction bits, and wherein the number of forward error correction bits added to each packet is configurable.

14. [15.] (Amended) The method recited in Claim 12 [13] wherein:

- the step of forming data packets comprises the step of forming data packets containing data to be transmitted and forward error correction bits;
- the step of transmitting the data packets comprises the step of transmitting the data packets and forward error correction bits at least two times to one or more remote locations;
- the step of receiving the data packets comprises the step of receiving the data packets and forward error correction bits at the one or more remote locations; and
- the step of processing the received data packets comprises the step of forward error correction processing the received data packets and forward error correction bits at the one or more remote locations to reconstruct the original data.

15. [16.] (Amended) The method recited in Claim 14 [15] wherein the number of forward error correction bits added to each packet is configurable.

16. [17.] (Amended) A rain fade mitigation method for distributing data to one or more remote locations in a rain fade environment, comprising the steps of:

- forming data packets comprising data to be transmitted and forward error correction bits;
- transmitting the data packets and forward error correction bits to one or more remote locations, which data packets are transmitted at a relatively slow transmission rate such that the time required to transmit the data to the one or more receivers is greater than or equal to the time necessary to transmit the data plus an amount of time sufficient to allow data reconstruction in the presence of a rain fade event;
- receiving the data packets and forward error correction bits at the one or more remote locations; and
- forward error correction processing the received data packets and forward error correction bits to reconstruct the original data.

17. [18.] (Amended) The method recited in Claim 17 wherein the number of forward error correction bits added to each packet is configurable.

REMARKS

Regarding the status of the present application, Claims 13-18 have been amended to be renumbered as Claims 12-17, Claims 1 and 14 have been amended, and Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.